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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2693
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0253
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 4873
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 1606
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 7209
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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3924
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UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 001026

STATE PLEASE PASS TO USAID

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SUBJECT: PAKISTAN IDP CRISIS

REF: A) Islamabad 1007 B) Islamabad 996
C) Islamabad 967 D) Islamabad 940

¶1. (SBU) Summary: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees will be in Pakistan May 14-17. The overall IDP number is now well above 1 million, and the new caseload is above 485,000. UNHCR has a plane arriving today from Dubai with non-food items which cannot be procured locally. Embassy Islamabad's Consular Section has received a few calls from American citizens concerned about IDP relatives, some of whom may be Amcits themselves. Embassy is pursuing tracing through International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). ODRP is working with CENTCOM to identify options to support the Pakistan government and military in IDP assistance.

¶2. (SBU) The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) hosted May 12 in Islamabad an IDP coordination meeting which was addressed by General Nadeem, the newly appointed Pakistan IDP emergency assistance coordinator, and OCHA also provide an update on revision of the UN's Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan (septel). End Summary.

¶3. (SBU) UNHCR told Embassy on May 12 that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will be in Pakistan Thursday through Sunday of this week (May 14-17). The UN is eager to use this visit to demonstrate clear world and UN engagement in the IDP crisis. We are urging that the High Commissioner meet with donors, and we will meet with him separately.

¶4. (U) UNHCR reported that, as of the morning of May 11, new caseload IDPs registered since May 2, 2009 now number above 493,000 (37,429 in camps and 456,031 outside). This new caseload in combination with the old caseload of 5556,000 and an additional 40,000 IDPs in Punjab, puts the overall IDP count well above 1 million. (Note: later in the day OCHA put the new caseload number at 485,000 to reflect UNHCR's recent re-verification efforts with provincial authorities.)

¶5. (U) UNHCR's planeload of non-food items arrived in Pakistan today from Dubai. The airlift delivered non-food items which cannot be procured locally including plastic sheeting, emergency storage halls (Wiik halls, which are smaller than Rubb halls), mosquito nets and jerry cans.

¶6. (SBU) Embassy Islamabad's Consular Section has received a few calls from American citizens concerned about IDP relatives, some of whom may be Amcits themselves. The ICRC has not set up a formal tracing process for IDPs from this crisis but does rely on a network

of volunteers from the Pakistani Red Crescent Society to trace throughout Pakistan, including in Swat, and will work with us to respond to Amcit requests. UNHCR is in the process of entering registered IDPs into a database that will over the next few weeks also facilitate tracing.

¶7. (SBU) OCHA hosted May 12 in Islamabad a General Coordination Meeting on the IDP crisis. General Nadeem, the newly appointed Pakistan Government lead on IDP emergency assistance coordination, briefed the meeting. OCHA updated on revision of the UN's Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan. (septel)

¶8. (SBU) ODRP is working closely with CENTCOM to identify a full range of options to support the Government of Pakistan and the Pakistani military in IDP assistance. The Director General of Military Operations and the Director General of the Inter-Services Intelligence were contacted to let them know that the U.S. military is standing ready to support.

PATTERSON